

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 10, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 132.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Edward D. Reynolds, purser, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:*

That the petitioner, while acting as purser on board the United States ships Warren and Southampton, during the Mexican war, was appointed by Commodore Jones, then commanding the squadron, to receive and disburse, as special agent, the money known as "military contributions." For this service and responsibility, which is acknowledged by all the naval authorities as "extra," he claims a commission of two and a half per cent. on said moneys. The Secretary of the Navy, finding no existing law that authorized him to allow this commission, was compelled to decline paying it. Since then Congress has, by special acts, granted this compensation to two other pursers for performing the same duty, to wit, William Speiden and Samuel Forrest.

The committee, believing that the petitioner is justly entitled to the compensation he asks, and that, after the precedents referred to, it cannot be reasonably refused, report the accompanying bill.

